

MINNESOTA TRANSPORTATION MUSEUM

Dear T.M. Member:

This is a combination Holiday greeting and newsletter to bring you up to date on the latest happenings. Fortunately, our fortunes are in keeping with the festive spirit and we have a good deal to be happy about.

First, the Minnehaha depot which we (and the Historical Society) received from the Milwaukee Road, has been "saved" from vandals through efforts of a work day by MTM members and some fine publicity effected by Jim Harrison. We are now in the process of refurbishing the interior in anticipation of Spring and a chance to tackle the exterior. There is much to be done on this project and all are enjoined to pitch in. Call Jim Bertrand, Geo Isaacs or me to find out when work sessions are being planned. Any depot artifacts circa 1900 are hereby solicited.

We have a lease on the land adjacent to the depot which will accomodate storage and display tracks (not there yet tho). This site holds promise of being a delightful one for the nucleus of a fine Museum and we have the encouragement and support of the Historical Society in the project.

Second, our DesMoines trolley bus is now in storage in Savage after several traumatic attempts at retrieving it from Iowa. A wrecker finally did the job after several abortive attempts at moving it under it's own power using the streetcar power unit. We did, however, get it 35 miles under it's own traction motor to prove the fact that the thing does work. Seriously, we have a representative of a fast vanishing species and a replica of the vehicle that traversed the streets of Duluth from streetcars until only a few years ago.

Third, We now have title to the 353 -- 80 tons of 6 wheel switcher which did service for the Soo Line for many years and finally for Koppers Coke.. This is a donation from Koppers and, we hope, will constitute our first motive power for the Museum. Reports are that it is in satisfactory condition to be put in working order without too much work.

As you can see, we have much to be thrilled over and also much to do. To share in the expectations and lay some plans for the ensuing year we are meeting at the Minnehaha depot on Sunday, January 3rd and get the New Year rolling. We'll see you there at 8:00 and let's make this a good turnout. We will have the stove red hot to dispell the cold and maybe even something to sit on.

Yours Truly,



James E. Moe, Pres.



MINNESOTA STREETCAR MUSEUM

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